

Around the Deaneries: Oxford



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Celebrating the first 20 years

by the Revd Dr Amanda Bloor

THE sun shone in London on 3 May as crowds gathered to mark the first twenty years of women's priestly ministry in the Church of England. The Archbishop of Canterbury preached at a service of celebration at St Paul's Cathedral to which every woman ordained in 1994 had been invited, along with representatives from each diocese, including a large contingent from Oxford.

The day began with a picnic lunch in Dean's Yard at Westminster Abbey, where there were cries of delight as old friends met up and stories were shared. Women and men, clergy and laity, young and old, listened to speakers on the steps of Church House before setting off to process together to St Paul's. Traffic came to a halt, pedestrians waved from bridges and pavements, and even the police officers accompanying the procession seemed to have smiles on their faces.

The applause rolled around the building and seemed to go on forever.

At the Cathedral, those with formal roles in the service put on their robes, whilst others filed in to fill the building. The service booklet instructed the congregation to remain seated as those women ordained in 1994 processed in, but in a spontaneous gesture of love and affirmation, they rose to their feet and applauded as each of the 700 women walked past. The applause rolled around the building and seemed to go on for ever.

Archbishop Justin had been invited to preach, but to many people's surprise he took the role of deacon in the service, setting up the altar and serving Canon



Jubilant smiles. Archbishop Justin waves with the class of 94. Photo: St Paul's Cathedral.

Phillippa Boardman, who presided. In his sermon, the Archbishop made explicit reference to the costly nature of vocation, and for some, the "bitterness of disappointment and rejection caused by the knee-jerk resistance of an institution facing change." He apologised on behalf of the Church and for himself; a moving and healing moment. But soberness gave way to joy. 'This is birthday time, party time,' Archbishop Justin said, and as the congregation – and the people watching the service outside the Cathedral on a screen set up in Paternoster Square

– shared Holy Communion together, there was a real sense of gratitude and thanksgiving.

Sharing the Journey

The Diocese of Oxford is holding its own celebrations on **7 June**, under the title 'Sharing the Journey.' A service of Holy Communion at Christ Church at 11am will be followed by a panel discussion at St Mary the Virgin at 2pm. All are welcome. There's no need to book a place, but it would help planning if you could let us know that you intend to be there.

Please email tinadstirling@aol.com or call 01296 747587. Why not gather a group from your parish and travel together?

Some of the women ordained in 1994, and some of the bishops who ordained them, were unable to be at the service because of infirmity or because they had since died. Some carried the scars of painful journeys following Christ's call. But as we left St Paul's to travel back to all corners of the country, one word from the message of support sent by Archbishop Desmond Tutu rang in my head: 'Yippee!'

More on page two.

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Celebrating the first 20 years

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So what was the reaction of women who were at the St Paul's service?

The Revd Beren Hartless, Director of Initial Ministerial Education for the Diocese, said: "It was a great day, full of joy and inspiring conversations on the long slow march from Westminster Abbey to St Paul's."

"The most moving moments, for me, were the standing ovation for us as we processed into the cathedral. The clapping seemed to go on for ever! And Archbishop Justin serving as deacon. It took me back to my first presidency at the Eucharist in 1994 when my training incumbent, who was also in the march with us on Saturday (he is the Bishop of Liverpool designate), did the same for me. It's awesome to realise that such men are so aligned with the servant model of Jesus. The funniest moment was the slowly dawning realisation that the 1994 cohort had almost all gone grey, or white-haired).

"The saddest moment was seeing a young

American man shouting at the women priests on the march, saying we shouldn't be leading the people of God. I called out 'God bless you!' as I passed him. But, really, that was the only dark moment in a day of great celebration. And what is joy if it isn't highlighted by a shadow or two?"

"The most inspiring moment? Seeing the young women and men priests, with us through the day, there taking up the baton and continuing the task we had begun."

The Revd Jo Coney, (pictured right) a retired Diocesan LLM Advisor and now an Associate Priest the Wolvercote and Wytham Benefice, said: "The standing ovation which started as we began to come in was a complete surprise and incredibly moving and humbling."

Rosemary Tucker, from Yarnton, said: "What a wonderful day - so full of joy and thankfulness. The sharing of stories on the procession from the Abbey to St Paul's it felt like a pilgrimage. The waves and support from the people on the street and from those in cars who we were

holding up. Then the service such a mix of formality and informality. I will never forget the tears and the smiles as we in the congregation clapped as the priests from 94 came into the cathedral. It was such a privilege to be there I will never forget it."

The Revd Thelma Shacklady, a retired priest with permission to officiate, said "The whole day was inspiring and unforgettable, but if I were to select four particular memories the first would be standing in Dean's yard at Westminster Abbey and seeing the huge crowds waiting to process from there to St Paul's. To be part of such an impressive gathering was quite overwhelming. The second was standing on the steps of St Paul's with my fellow priests, a great field of white, facing the crowd in Paternoster Square and the barrage of cameras, and applauding as the Archbishop of Canterbury joined us. Next was the lump-in-the-throat moment as we filed into the Cathedral to a standing ovation, contrary to the directions on the service paper which suggested we should walk in silently."



Peshawar priest heads Pentecost celebration

by Jo Duckles

A PRIEST who lost half of his family in an attack on All Saints Church in Peshawar last year will speak at the first ever Pentecost service for Oxford's growing community of international Christians.

The Revd Aftab Gohar hit the headlines in October 2013 when a suicide attack on a church in Pakistan killed his 79-year-old mother, his niece, two uncles, and other friends and relatives. Aftab, a minister at Abbotsgrange Church in Grangemouth, Scotland, was reported as publicly stating that he forgave the attackers, while acknowledging that their actions were wrong.

Aftab will be preaching at St Clement's Church, in Oxford, where the Pentecost service will take place on Sunday 8 June at 6.30pm. The Revd Bruce Gillingham, Area Dean for Cowley and Rector of St Clement's, Oxford, and Wonsuk Ma, Director of the Oxford Centre for Mission Studies came up with the idea.

Aftab will speak on Celebration and Sorrow, focusing on the Biblical text of Romans 12:15 "Rejoice with those who rejoice and mourn with those who mourn."

Bruce said: "I realised a year ago that

there are a large number of congregations that have grown up in Oxford in the last 10 years representing different minority ethnic backgrounds and they are worshipping as Christians, sometimes in English and sometimes in another language."

"Rejoice with those who rejoice and mourn with those who mourn."

He invited the Revd Andrew Anderson, a retired Church of Scotland minister and Chaplain to OCMS, to use his experience arranging a similar service in Edinburgh, where Archbishop John Sentamu was the speaker.

At least 20 international churches have been invited whose congregations include Indians, Chinese, Koreans, Afro Carribeans, Poles, Filipinos and many others.

For more information contact the Revd Andrew Anderson on 07947 125493.

Confusion as hunger letter is delivered



THERE was confusion when Bishop John and the Revd Dr Keith Hebden (pictured above) tried to deliver a letter to the Prime Minister's constituency office just before Easter. After a short service at Witney Methodist church a small group of local supporters of the 'End Hunger Fast' campaign knocked at the door of the PM's office but were not admitted. Meanwhile a passer-by, apparently concerned by the small group who had gathered on the pavement, called the police who swiftly arrived at the scene.

The letter, signed by 45 bishops and another 600 church people, was delivered on the same day at the constituency offices of all three party leaders, calling upon them to tackle the causes of food poverty, including low wages, rising food prices and an inadequate welfare benefit safety net. The letter coincided with publication data by the Trussell Trust showing that more than 900,000 people received food parcels in 2013/14, an increase of 163 per cent. The 'End Hunger Fast' campaign has been spearheaded by the Revd Dr Keith Hebden, a parish priest from Mansfield, who went without food for the 40 days of Lent. The Bishop's staff in the Diocese of Oxford supported the campaign by fasting together for a day in March.

Mr Cameron, who was on holiday at the time, later said on BBC Radio Oxford that his office's refusal to open the door had been a misunderstanding. He has since agreed to meet Bishop John and Keith Hebden to talk about the issues.

Mental wellbeing

MAINTAINING our mental wellbeing is the theme of a series of talks, resources and top-tips at St Nicolas Church, Earley this month.

After an unstable economic climate, changes in society, today's world may leave many of us feeling anxious, stressed or in a

low mood. This series of talks on Tuesday 3 June includes mental health professionals and chaplains, resources from a wide range of organisations and the chance to ask questions as well as stories of how faith can help with mental wellbeing. The event takes place from 7.30pm to 9.30pm. For more information email office@stnicolas.org.uk or call 0118 966 9080.



New Director of Finance

Alison Jestico joined the staff at DCH as Director of Finance last month. Alison has come from Oxfam where she was Head of Finance UK. She lives in Wantage and worships at the parish church where, amongst other things, she is a member of the choir. Alison is married to Bill and they have four grown up children. She replaces Nigel Wearne who retired earlier this year.



College principal gets top Cathedral job

The Queen has approved that the Reverend Canon Professor Martyn William Percy, BA (Hons), MEd, PhD, Principal of Ripon College, Cuddesdon, be appointed Dean of Christ Church, Oxford in succession to the Very Reverend Christopher Andrew Lewis BA, PhD, on his resignation.

Professor Martyn Percy was educated at Bristol University, Sheffield University and at King's College, London. He trained for the ordained ministry at Durham University. Since 2004, he has been the Principal of Ripon College, Cuddesdon. The College also incorporates the Oxford Ministry Course, the West of England Ministerial Training Course, and the Oxford Centre for Ecclesiology and Practical Theology (a research and consultancy centre).

Martyn is a member of the Faculty of Theology and Religion at the University of Oxford, Professorial Research Fellow at Heythrop College, London and Visiting

Professor of Theological Education at King's College, London. He is an Honorary Canon of Salisbury Cathedral, and a former Canon Theologian at Sheffield Cathedral. He has served as Curate at St. Andrew's Bedford, and then as Chaplain and Director of Theology and Religious Studies at Christ's College, Cambridge. From 1997 to 2004 he was the Director of the Lincoln Theological Institute for the Study of Religion and Society.

Martyn has served as a Director and Council member of the Advertising Standards Authority, and as a member of the Independent Complaints Panel for the Portman Group (the self-regulating body for the alcoholic drinks industry). He is currently a Commissioner of the Direct Marketing Authority as well as an Advisor to the British Board of Film Classification. Since 2003 he has co-ordinated the Society for the Study of Anglicanism at the American Academy

of Religion. He writes on Christianity and contemporary culture and modern ecclesiology. His recent books include *Anglicanism: Confidence, Commitment and Communion* (2013) and *Thirty-Nine New Articles: An Anglican Landscape of Faith* (2013). Martyn says: It will, of course, be a huge wrench to leave here, truly. We have had ten enormously happy years here, and it has been an honour and privilege to serve here. I will miss it all enormously. The staff and students, and the Sisters and governors here are fabulous, and it is a wonderful place to be part of. The Installation at Christ Church is on 4 October. I am looking forward to the new role immensely, though confess to being both honoured and daunted in taking up the post. I will do my best. Please continue to pray for me as I prepare to move. And also for the community here – for the interregnum, and as they prepare to find a new Principal.



Professor Percy is 51, and married to the theologian the Revd Dr Emma Percy, who is Chaplain and Fellow of Trinity College, Oxford. They have 2 sons.

A celebration of marriage

A WEDDING Fair is taking place at St Laurence's Church, High Street, Winslow on June 21 to 22, 10.30am to 4.30pm.

A flower team of 16 people will create spectacular displays, wedding gowns from past times to contemporary dresses will be displayed and there will be a craft stall displaying ring cushions, rose petal bags

and other items. Debbie Dallimore from the Diocese's Communication Team will be on hand on 21 June to answer questions from couples interested in getting married in a church. For more contact Barbara Capstick on tbecapstick@yahoo.com. For more information about church weddings see www.yourchurchwedding.org.

Coffee venue in Lower Caversham



by Steve Jenkins

Mayor of Reading Councillor Marian Livingston was among the first to sample the delights of Lower Caversham's new café - The 3Cs. Caversham Community Café, which opened for business on Tuesday, 6 May, in St John the Baptist Church, Gosbrook Road.

Richard Purkis, of Lower Caversham Community Partnership, said: "This is a venture run for the community by the community. I hope that the café will be well used, well regarded and grow."

The not-for-profit 3Cs café will serve a range of freshly-ground coffees from espressos to cappuccinos, teas, infusions, cakes, biscuits and crisps every Tuesday, from 9.30am to 2.30pm. As custom builds, more days will be added.

3Cs grew out of conversations between Caversham Hall, New Bridge Nursery and St John the Baptist Church, part of

the parish of Caversham, Thameside and Mapledurham. Together they formed the Lower Caversham Community Partnership and surveys among the people and businesses of Lower Caversham showed the demand for a café in the community.

Thanks to grants from Reading Springboard, the Big Lottery Fund and Church House Caversham, St John's has been suitably adapted, a café counter built and a volunteer manager and staff trained. Equipment and fairtrade coffee and tea were sourced from Reading's own Kingdom Coffee.

The Revd Jeremy Tear, community priest at St John's, said: "St John's is delighted to be hosting the café and working in partnership with the nursery and the hall. Do come and visit us – you would very welcome!"

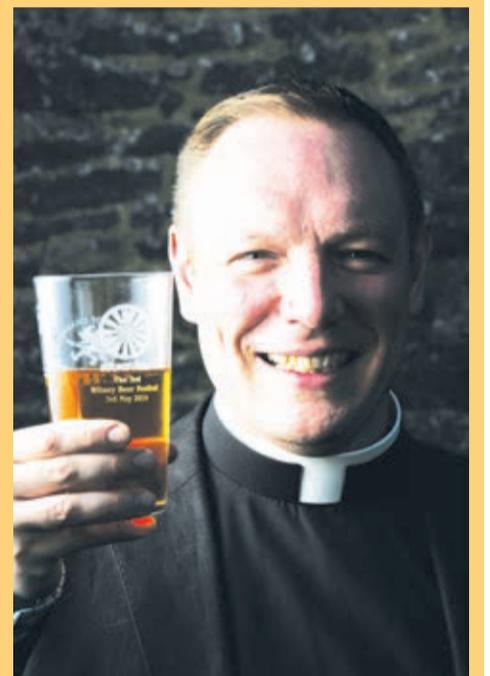
Cheers to the Witney beer fest

CONGRATULATIONS to the Revd Graham Sykes who won the home brewing contest at the third Witney Beer Festival last month.

St Mary the Virgin, Witney, hosted the contest which saw hundreds of people visit the church. The partnership working to enable this is headed by Witney Round Table, who have worked to develop it each year. More than 40 kegs of beer were served from a variety of breweries, including Witney's own Wychwood; and the local White Horse and Compass breweries. The churchwarden of St Mary's, Mr James Mills had the original idea with the Rector, the Revd Toby Wright. As part of St Mary's commitment to outreach and mission this is a key part of the developing strategy, along with the Festival of Food and Drink which took place later in May.

The home brew contest is a new innovation and Graham, who is Chaplain to the Bishop of Oxford and Chair of *the Door's* editorial support group deserved, to win with his delicious brew.

The Rector, Toby Wright (right) said: "We see this as an incredible opportunity to serve the local community. It allows all sorts of relations with local people to begin



and to grow. It unites people together and has led to great outreach and pastoral encounters."

The next beer festival will be on Saturday 2 May 2015.

Cutting the cake for Dorchester



From left are Bishops Colin, John and Andrew cutting the cake at a service held at Dorchester Abbey to mark the creation of the new Dorchester Archdeaconry.

Photo: Simon Salomé-Bentley

My Story – by Pamela

My name is Pamela Horsham, I am 25 and single mother of my 1yr old son Noah.

I was addicted to drugs in my mid-teens and I have found a new life with the help of Gilead. This is my story...

I was a very rebellious child and teenager, a lot of my behaviour was a reaction to a very chaotic home life. My Mum struggled with drug taking, and her Mum was an alcoholic. My Dad was violent, and when Mum met a new man he was worse. This all made me anxious and insecure.

When I was 13, Mum sent me to live with my Dad. I went from there to foster care, stayed with friends and relatives, and at the age of 16 was living with my boyfriend.

I went off the rails, smoking and drinking, and taking 'party drugs', mainly ecstasy. I was using drugs to make me feel happy. By the age of 15 I was into cocaine and at 16 I was addicted to heroin and valium. I was anxious all the time and had to take drugs to feel 'normal'. I could hardly go out or meet people.

I took an overdose when I was 18, it was all a blur but I think it was deliberate. Mum came to see me in hospital and tried to help me. I detoxed in hospital, and I could see what my life was doing to her. She told me my Uncle knew a place called Gilead that may be able to help, and so I went, but looking back I did it mostly out of remorse for her sake.

I completed the programme (2 years) and was happy doing it. But when I left I still had some issues to deal with. I had a severe panic attack and I met up with my ex-boyfriend and took some drugs to help me calm down. I got back into drug use, but I knew life had been better when I was at Gilead. Once you've tasted a good life, you just know the difference.

When I was 24, I planned an overdose again because I felt totally dead inside, like a zombie. I had all the drugs lined up. But instead I called Ian Samuel at Gilead and asked him to help me, because I knew Gilead was where I had felt really happy for the first time. Within an hour he and his wife Bron were at my flat, helping me pack and caring for me. Bron held me with her arm round me in their car all the way back to Gilead.

It was the unconditional love and acceptance they showed me after I had messed up so badly that was the key for my recovery this time.

Being older and having a better idea about what I wanted from life I found myself being more focused on the Gilead programme. The work therapy and



training helped to stabilise and train me for life outside. I gave birth to my son in 2013 and he changed my outlook to life completely, loving him helped me to understand what real love is and how God loves us and how love can make you strong.

The last year I have moved into my own home with my son and started a degree.

I volunteer two days a week for Gilead. It has been a challenging time taking on full responsibility and control of my life. I know that in the past this is where I would have failed but God and loving my son has made me strong, and able to enjoy this time and all these challenges. I never thought I would be happy living a 'normal' life – but I am!

PLEASE CONSIDER SUPPORTING GILEAD

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Making a larger donation: Alternatively, a one-off gift donation would also be a great help. If you would like to discuss a larger donation please contact Chris Cole (Trustee) on 07957 433973.

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We can't do rehab on our own

Gilead Foundations Charity was founded in 1991, to operate residential rehabilitation at Risdon Farm, for people suffering with compulsive behaviours such as drug and alcohol addictions, self-harm, depression and related issues. Since 1991 Gilead has seen hundreds of clients complete the programme, with present success rates showing at least 85% living a successful recovery lifestyle, measured two years after they have completed the programme. As well as receiving support, Gilead has been able to provide rehab for people contacting us as a direct result of features in these Diocesan newspapers.

Risdon is a working farm, with-free range egg production and wholesale milk production providing real-life work therapy and skills training to our clients. The farm businesses are operated as a Social Enterprise, so that each student's fees can be subsidised by up to £250 per week from the profits. Students receive work therapy and skills training; they also get a sense of fulfilment from knowing that they are contributing to the welfare of everyone at Gilead through their work.

Free-range egg production has proved so successful that Risdon Farm is increasing its number of hens from 9,000 to 25,000 over the next year, with a guaranteed buyer for the eggs they produce. This will help Gilead become more financially secure, but it will not provide the whole answer.

Many rehabs are struggling, some are closing, because they are dependent upon funding from Agencies, which has now been lost in the recession. As an accredited rehab, Gilead is periodically able to secure funding for eligible clients from local authorities. But this funding is usually only for a short period, and we cannot depend on it.

In March, Gilead launched its 'Bursary Fund', a project designed to find 'Bursary Partners' who will support the work by giving a regular monthly amount towards the costs of providing successful, life-

transforming rehab. Since then, monthly giving has increased by 16%, which is good news. But we still have quite a way to go. Ian Samuel (who founded Gilead with his wife, Bron) explains ...

"Very soon after we started Gilead, (in 1991), other people with like-minded vision joined us, plus many people who could not come to help us in person, but began to partner with us, in prayer and financial support. Many of our partners at present have been supporting us for years and we thank them so much for this help, because without it we would not have survived.

"We teach our students that you cannot do recovery on your own, and we have certainly learned that 'we' cannot rehabilitate people on 'our' own. We need partners, in fact, as we are looking to increase our partnership from 58 to 1000.

"Even though Bron and myself are now in our 60's we are passionate about the future, and believe by expanding our partnership, with the next generation of leadership taking on more responsibility, we will be able to help hundreds, even thousands, of people get unlocked from their compulsive behaviours and be released into the potential that God intended for them.

"Gilead provides long-term recovery and transformation for people and families whose lives have been shattered by the causes and effects of addictive, life-controlling behaviour; We have a good model of Social Enterprise that helps provide financial security for the ministry; We need supporters who will see the vision and help us with monthly donations. Would you consider being one of the Bursary Partners that we are looking for? Any monthly or one-off donation would be gratefully received and put to good use. Your prayers are also genuinely valued by us all."

To donate, please use the form on this page, or visit www.gilead.org.uk. If you would like more information, please contact us on 01837 851240. Thank you.

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www.gilead.org.uk

Win tickets to the Battle Proms



The perfect summer celebration returns to Oxfordshire on Saturday 12 July, as the ever popular Battle Proms makes its 10th annual appearance at Blenheim Palace, and the Door has three pairs of tickets to give away to the winners of this month's competition.

In addition to a full orchestral programme of classical music, this unique open-air picnic concert features a Spitfire aerial display and stunning firework finale, all set in the grounds of Winston Churchill's childhood home. This year the thrilling mounted skill-at-arms display by an expert cavalry troop will be carried out in World War One regalia to mark the 100th anniversary and in an exclusive addition to the Blenheim Palace Battle

Proms, 150 re-enactors will participate in a skirmish as part of the Road to Waterloo programme of events in the build up to 2015.

And there will be a rousing rendition of the Battle Proms signature piece – Beethoven's Battle Symphony – performed as he intended with the full complement of 193 live firing cannon. For more information, or to book tickets, visit www.battleproms.com or call on 01432 355 416.

For the chance to win a pair of tickets, simply answer the following question: How many cannons will be fired during Beethoven's Battle Symphony at the Proms? Send your answers to *The Door*, Diocesan Church House, North Hinksey Lane, Oxford, OX2 0NB. The closing date for entries is Friday, 13 June.

Hilda of Whitby: a spirituality for now

Ray Simpson
BRF £7.99
ISBN 978 1 84101 728

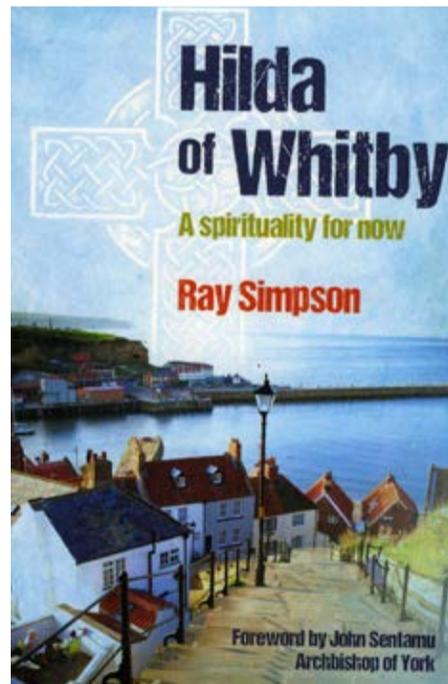
by Jo Duckles

I've always been fascinated by Whitby. I'm from Yorkshire and first visited when I was a teenager, later going back time and time again as a student and later when I was trainee reporter in Bridlington, just down the road. The ruined Abbey (right) is a fascinating and eerie place with a rich history relevant to the spread of Christianity in the UK.

So when *Hilda of Whitby: A Spirituality for Now* landed on my desk a few weeks ago in a clump of new books from BRF, I immediately started reading it. It's by Ray Simpson, the founder of the international new monastic movement The Community of St Aidan and Hilda and principal tutor on its Celtic Studies programmes.

It's a step right back in time, starting with the 'hard place' Hilda was born into, and examining the brutality of the pagan, Anglo Saxon society of the time. It goes through historic battles, characters and the development of monastic communities and the influence of Celtic Christianity.

In places the writing may be a bit historical and dry, but it's one of those books that is worth persevering with as it is rich in insights and for every time I found my brain switching off amid historic names and factual accounts, there were moments where I was impressed by

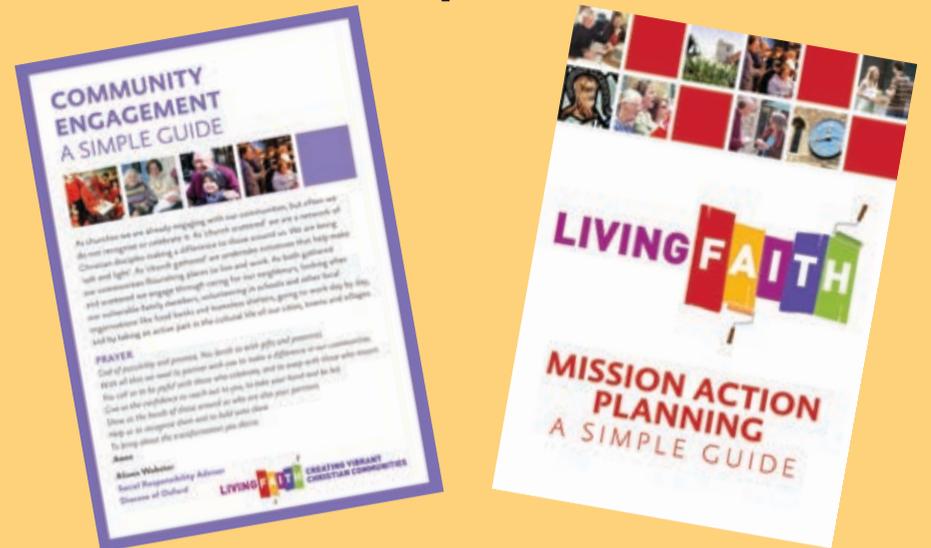


Simpson's thought provoking analysis.

I was also impressed by the way he makes the history relevant to today, questioning our fast moving capitalist culture and providing invaluable spiritual reflections, poems and prayers for the reader to work through.

Of course he mentions the role of women, especially Hilda, in the formation of monastic communities, and how in 1066 a Norman, male dominated society took over the Church and belittled women. It's no surprise that this book has been released as the Church of England is on the cusp of allowing women to be consecrated bishops, in fact BRF's publicity material headline is *Inspirational woman to head up new church leadership*

New Simple Guides



There are two new Living Faith Simple Guides available. One has ideas, resources and is there to help churches to engage with their communities - **Community Engagement: A Simple Guide**. The other new resource is there to help with Mission Action Planning which is a process designed to help churches grow in depth, impact and numbers - **Mission Action Planning: A Simple Guide**.

These resources are free of charge and are available from the Communications Department at Diocesan Church House. Please phone 01865 208225 or email debbie.dallimore@oxford.anglican.org



Win a book

The Door has three copies of *Hilda of Whitby, A Spirituality for Now*, to give away in a prize draw. To win a copy simply send your name and address to Hilda of Whitby Contest, The Door, Diocesan Church House, Oxford, OX2 0NB. The closing date for entries is Friday, June 13.

institution. And Simpson can't escape the Bram Stoker legacy, that has long overshadowed the ancient Hilda story. But he does include a chapter on the vampires, acknowledging that Hilda's place of resurrection can be used for Goth Eucharists. He explores the parallels between good and evil in the vampire stories.

He states: "Many young people know more about vampires... than they do about Jesus, but the evils that Jesus alone can overcome are more than myths of vampires." He points to the hopeful sign that pilgrims are on the increase and a pilgrim trail is included as an appendix. This is a fascinating little book that is well worth a read. Last year I cycled in Northumbria, on my way to Scotland, visiting some of the sites mentioned in the book (Lindisfarne and Bamburgh Castle). This has made me want to re-visit those places with more time to spend reflecting on their history.



EXIT DARCUS

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Author of The Purple Veil

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Tel: 01344 305965 – Email: philbwatts@gmail.co.uk

There is none like you, O Lord,
and there is no God besides you,
according to all that we have
heard with our ears.

1Ch 17:20 (ESV)

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Around the Deaneries - Oxford

THE Oxford Deanery is a varied one with a range of traditions from St Ebbe's and St Aldate's at the low church end, through to St Mary Magdalene at the high church end.

Within those churches there are associated colleges, chaplains, ministries to tourists, students and the homeless. There are parishes that attract 1,000 people every Sunday and those that attract a dozen.

The Revd Mark Butchers, Area Dean, said: "There are rural parishes like Wytham and suburban parishes like Wolvercote and St Margaret's in Summertown and parishes in city centre ministry. The variety is phenomenal and that presents lots of challenges."

At a recent deanery meeting the Revd Graham Sykes, Bishop John's Chaplain and chairman of *the Door's* Editorial Support Group, gave a talk on maps of mission. Meanwhile the Revd Jane Sherwood, from St Luke's, Cold Harbour, presented on the

amazing transformation of the building into a community facility. (See *the Door*, April 2014 for an indepth report on this).

"We had a third presentation about the work in Cutteslowe undertaken by the Cutteslowe Church Partnership. This is a joint partnership between St Peter's, St Michael's, St Andrew's and Summertown URC. One of the things they discussed were the great strides that were made in establishing new work and outreach."

In Wolvercote itself, where Mark is the Rector, the church is coming to the end of a £700,000 development project to renew the buildings for community use. "We have just come close to finishing the building work. We have a lovely new set of buildings connected to the church and they are being well used by the local community," says Mark. "We also have the Wolvercote Church Partnership with Wolvercote Baptist and we organised something called the Living Love, Loving Life course which

attracted 35 to 40 people. We are hoping to repeat that in the autumn and we are hoping people will say to their friends 'that was a good course, why not come along.'"

"All deaneries developed a deanery map about 18 months ago and we have set up a communications group to take some of the recommendations forward and as a result we have carved out funding for 12 hours per week for a deanery mission enabler to work with the communications group to take things forward. We got the agreement of every single PCC and I'm delighted about that," said Mark.



Enabling mission

by Paula Clifford

Oxford Deanery Mission Enabler. If you think the job title is a mouthful, just imagine how challenging the job itself is. Contrary to what I've heard said, it's not about telling people how to do mission. The clue is in the word "enabler".

We all know that the Oxford deanery is rich in resources of all kinds, allowing us to plough our own furrows pretty effectively. We reflect every conceivable church tradition and we rejoice in our differences.

The challenge, I think, is twofold. First, there's the challenge of communications. All too often we reinvent the wheel, partly because we can, but partly too because we've little idea what our near neighbours are up to. So one priority is to set up ways in which information can be shared quickly and easily, through a website and through social media.

Secondly, there's the challenge of working together. When it comes to mission, some churches are doing pretty well on their own. But we could do more and do it better together: together as Anglicans, together with Christians of other denominations, and of course working alongside our neighbours in Cowley.

Back in the 1980s, the bigger Oxford churches ran a three-term course called Christians in Oxford Lay Training (the



COLT course). There were lectures, group work and the experience of going out on mission together to towns and villages far and wide. The course ran for a few years and was attended by people from across the Oxford and Cowley deaneries. Now any one of those organising churches could have put on something good on their own. But they did it together, and as we listened to and learned from one another the course became special, very much more than the sum of its parts.

Enabling mission isn't always about the big projects. It's about following our passions more effectively because we are in it together. And above all it's about offering residents and visitors alike a lively image of the kingdom of God in our city.

The Revd Dr Paula Clifford is Oxford's new Deanery Mission Enabler.

Free singing lessons

TODDLERS learn music theory at a free music event run by the Revd Sally Welch and Liz Holmes at St Margaret's Church, Oxford on Saturdays.

Up to 30 children from babies aged less than a year to seven-year-olds are split into two groups, the under threes and the over threes. Sally, who takes the under threes, said: "For the small children we use jigsaws with the first line of a nursery rhyme. They make it up and then sing the low notes and the high notes."

After an hour of musical theory, the children play while the adults eat cake. "It's been going for about two-and-a-half years and it attracts people who want to introduce their children to singing. The



group happens three times every month, with one Saturday being dedicated to a different event, with coffee, croissants, newspapers and arts for children. "We get people who don't go to church at all, people from St Margaret's and different churches.

"It's not about a religious agenda and the music we use is secular. It's simply a gift to the community. We just want people to come along and enjoy it," added Sally.

The Cutteslowe Partnership

CHURCH leaders are looking to the next steps in a successful inter-tradition partnership in north Oxford.

The Cutteslowe partnership is an ecumenical group of churches, including St Andrew's and St Michael and All Angels, both in Summertown, that is currently considering establishing a worshipping community on the Cutteslowe estate.

The Revd Gavin Knight, of St Michael's, said: "We have different ideas of how this might be achieved but we are listening and working together. In the next few months, St Michael's will be commissioning a parish audit to examine the areas of greatest need and spiritual deprivation in the parish. We have some very exciting plans but would like to defer these until we are confident that our vision relates to God's mission in this part of his world."

St Andrew's began to work in Cutteslowe 12 years ago, at the invitation of David Trebilcock, a community worker who is now the pastor of Woodstock Road Baptist Church. A restorative justice scheme was among the projects launched. The Revd Andrew Wingfield Digby, Rector of St Andrews, said: "The work has developed over the years and we have always been conscious that for there to be a long term impact on a very needy community it needs to be made in cooperation with



parishes in which the estate lies."

Three years ago the Cutteslowe Church Partnership was formed which included the three Anglican churches and the Summertown URC. A formal agreement was signed in which we agreed to respect each other's traditions and seek to work together for the transformation of the community."

Andrew says: "Of course we have our differences but there is great respect and we are united in our desire to serve a community which has been marginalised and treated unjustly for generations."

Prayer drumming during Holy Week

PRAYER drumming and a labyrinth were among the attractions at St Mary's Kildington during Holy Week. Prayer took place every day throughout the week, starting with morning prayer at 9am and ending with Compline at 9pm. The Rector, the Revd Felicity Scroggie said St Mary's joined forces with Methodists, Baptists, a free church and two other Anglican churches for the event.

"We had prayer stations set up, daily newspapers to encourage people to use them as a daily prayer sheet, had a Taizé service and prayer drumming. One woman said to me she'd love to get into prayer drumming.

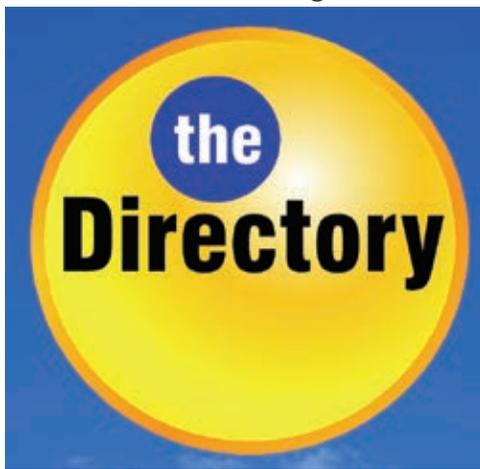
"It was the most amazing week. Members of the public came in. One little girl aged seven came with her grandfather. She walked the labyrinth three times and when

they left she turned to her grandand and asked if she could go back in because there was so much to do.

"We had a tragic funeral at the start of the week and people asked how we would cope with a prayer event. We said it was okay, because that is what churches do. We said people could light a candle for the young man who died. The family were able to come back and be in the church surrounded by people who were praying, which is exactly what we should be doing as a church."

Pentecost lunch

The next event will be a Pentecost lunch in the High Street with Christian street theatre, entertainment and family fun. There will be a 10.30am ecumenical Pentecost service at St Mary's and at noon The Big Lunch Event in the Village centre.



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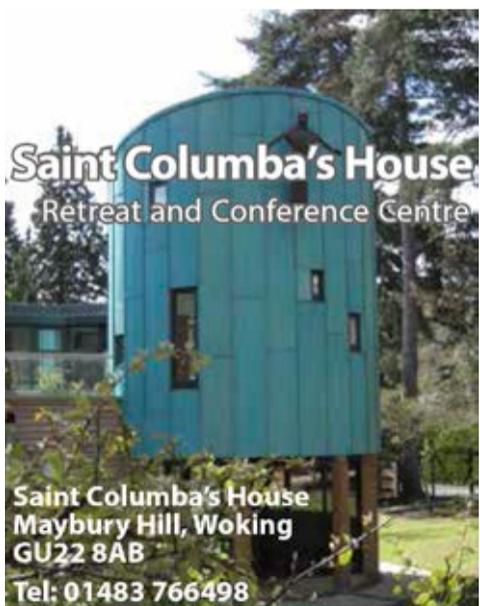
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The future o

Shaping confident, collaborative leadership is the 2014 Living Faith strand. *The Door* gives three different examples of how churches are empowering their congregations.



St Nicholas and St Mary's Church, Littlemore. Photo Benjamin H Johnson Below are Margreet, Tom Bowden and Wendy Blagden. Photo: Jo Duckles

By Jo Duckles

CONGREGATION members are being encouraged to flourish with a new plan for shared leadership at St Mary and Nicholas Church, Littlemore, Oxford. The church, famous for its founder, John Henry Newman, enlisted the help of the Diocese to create a plan to change the way it works and help members take ownership of their Christian community.

The idea started after the Vicar, the Revd Margreet Armitstead, went along to a Leading Your Church into Growth (LYCIG) Conference at High Leigh Conference Centre along with Curate Tom Albinson and churchwarden Wendy Blagden. They then went along to a follow-up day at the nearby Oxford Academy, a Diocesan sponsored secondary school, with six others from the PCC.

They had already had sessions six years ago with the then Parish Development Advisor, Olivia Graham. Last Autumn, after LYCIG, they had a session with Archdeacon of Oxford the Ven. Martin Gorick, on how to move the vision forward and a further session with Diocesan Director of Mission, Canon Michael Beasley, two months ago.

"It's moving away from the idea that everyone is helping the vicar to the congregation owning the ministry. People have been really positive," said Wendy. While the group are aiming to walk together to achieve the vision, they admit they are not all 'yes' men and women, but have healthy differences of opinion. "There are plenty of people like me who are sort of okay with change but my head is ruling my heart," says Tom Bowden, a PCC member. "We are all singing from the same hymn sheet but in different parts. It works for us at the moment because we go back to our vision."

On every step of the journey they have

had people from outside helping them, ensuring the core leadership team don't become cliquy or an 'in crowd'. Tom said: "This church is very good at getting people involved. A new mum might come into our fun church one week and be leading art activities and telling stories the next. It's an accepting church and people are allowed to make mistakes, it's a very safe environment to make mistakes."

A scoping document was produced so that everyone knows what everyone else is doing on the various groups; building development, building maintenance, children's work, communications, hospitality, mission, pastoral, resources, social justice and worship and prayer.

"...we have been given all the gifts we need and we just need to harness that."

Each group has two co-ordinators, most of them PCC members and they meet regularly to discuss the progress they have made and what they need to do next. Margreet said: "It all means more involvement from more people, drawing on people's gifts and allowing them to fulfil their potential and grow in confidence."

Wendy said: "Through press reports it would be easy to think the Church generally was struggling but if you think of the Church as the body of Christ, we have been given all the gifts we need and we just need to harness that."



"It's about the congregation taking ownership for their own faith and making sure they are aware there are all these different things they can join in with. There is quite a bit of energy in the church, but it is still a small church with a diverse congregation which is a reflection of the community."

So how does it work itself out practically? One example is Pentecost this month. The co-ordinators of the worship and prayer group have been commissioned to put together a liturgy for that service. There the co-ordinators of all of the ministry groups will be commissioned and the congregation will be asked to support them.

Once a fortnight the pastoral group organises a social event, drawing people in from the local community. "Elderly people who want to spend time with others can be collected. It's for those who want to feel part of something. There is so much energy there. The communion service here on a Wednesday morning allows people to open up about their lives. People who don't talk much come here and it's an intimate setting. That is, in a sense, what it's about," added Margreet.

f leadership

By Margot Hodson

The Haddenham benefice has long had confident lay leadership at its heart. The benefice has been growing through developing a team and network approach to leadership. Two smaller churches are directly led by their PCCs and these draw in others for particular events and services. St Nicholas Kingsey runs a monthly breakfast service and a team from the PCC with other church members lead this with ministry support.

St Michael's Aston Sandford involves every resident in the village in some aspect of the life of the church. St Mary's Haddenham is the largest congregation with a membership of about 150. Here different ministries in the church now have leadership teams to support them. For example there are at least seven different prayer ministries including intercessory, healing ministry and reflective prayer. These are supported through a leadership team of four people who meet monthly to enable these ministries and give pastoral care to those leading and taking part. This has helped to support existing initiatives such as the prayer ministry (healing) team but has also supported new initiatives.

This team has held two "24/7" prayer weekends based at the church centre. These have transformed the centre into a creative space where people can connect with God in different ways. The big project for this year is a prayer installation for peace and reconciliation, leading up to Remembrance Sunday in the parish church to mark the WW1 centenary. St Mary's monthly fresh expression, Caféplus has a number of teams supporting it and is led via a monthly prayer session. Recently the team leading the «food for thought» has

Lay team "gives generously" in Speen

by Jo Duckles

A TEAM of lay people have been successfully running St Mary's Speen for over 10 years.

With oversight from the Newbury Team Rector, the Revd Will Hunter Smart, lay people Jane Booth, Jo Fageant, John Hughesdon and Julian Shelly take turns at leading services.

St Mary's has recently published a vision to outline its aspirations. Church warden, Jane Burrell says: "Our zeal for a 'broad' church means we are tolerant and welcoming of those who lead us – indeed, we are blessed with a variety of viewpoints.

"Our last Archdeacon (Norman Russell) told us we were blazing a trail, one which would be trodden by other churches in the future; again, time will tell."

Jo said: "It's great having someone different every week. The diversity of leadership enriches our experience of Church."

Twice monthly Holy Communion services are done by the Team Rector, clergy from St Nicolas, Newbury, and other local clergy. St Mary's had been in danger of closing in 2002, when a retired priest took the reins. He was joined by another retired priest and a lay team was formed. The "high



linked up with the team providing craft for children to bring the short teaching session out of the craft activity. St Nicholas Cuddington has a thriving congregation of just over 80 members led by the PCC and a management team of wardens, clergy and other lay members. One recent new initiative has been an after school club called "Nic Nacs". For the last two years the children's ministry team has also led a very successful Easter children's play event.

The benefice has a monthly preachers' group and this supports all those who preach and lead services. This group is able to discuss the upcoming teaching themes and gives mutual support as we seek to make our preaching more effective. Both Haddenham and Cuddington have been supporting food banks and Haddenham is developing a care in the community project including practical care and bereavement support.

"It's a huge privilege to work with parishes with so much energy and shared leadership."

Haddenham benefice is looking to merge with Stone and Dinton in the next two years. Part of our collaboration has led us to take up a project with the schools

for collective worship. The benefices have used the "Open the Book" programme with three teams working over five schools. So far the feedback is very positive. In Haddenham and Stone, we are also working with ecumenical partners.

Leading a benefice through a network of collaborative leaders has changed the role of incumbent. I find that I spend much of my time supporting and mentoring those who are leading different ministries and recruiting volunteers - especially into leadership roles. I lead a benefice ministry team who support the parishes and the various teams and initiatives.

The benefices and parishes have been developing Mission Action Plans and seeking to focus their ministry as the parishes go forward. With Haddenham benefice there are sometimes more ideas than capacity to support them. It can be difficult to discern which initiatives should go forward, but our Mission Action Plans have helped us to be strategic. It's a huge privilege to work with parishes with so much energy and shared leadership. As we move forward into a benefice merger, we hope to learn from our new partners as we share our resources together.

Margot Hodson is Priest in Charge of the Haddenham with Cuddington and Kingsey, and Aston Sandford Benefice.



church" services became more "broad" and they began alternating between Holy Communion and Services of the Word.

The challenges faced by the church now include how to attract more young families and young people.

John said: "There's a good congregation but we do want to attract more people, including families from across the

community."

The Revd Will Hunter Smarth said: "St Mary's is a wonderful example of what can happen when a congregation pull together, giving generously of their time and talents, to build the local church. It's a privilege to have oversight of the church and to help lead them in their ministry and mission in Speen."

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Mission in Action

FROM Messy Churches for toddlers through to listening cafés for older folk, outreach projects and one-off celebrations, churches in the Oxford Diocese have been using grants from the Mission Fund in exciting creating ways. *Jo Duckles* looks at some examples.

700th anniversary of shrine

WHEN John Schorne discovered a spring in North Marston, Buckinghamshire, the Rector could have had no idea that the waters would have special healing properties.

Or that on the 700th anniversary of his death, members of a team of 11 churches named after him, would be planning to celebrate with a series of events to raise money for two hospices.

The scheme was given £500 from the Mission Fund.

The celebrations will kick off with a bang on Ascension Day (29 May) when fireworks will follow a Eucharist with Bishop Alan presiding. The commemorations mark the life of John Schorne, whose shrine became the most popular after Walsingham and Canterbury, and was visited twice by Henry VIII.

The Revd David Meakin, Schorne Team Rector, said: "The story goes that in a drought Schorne struck the ground with his staff and a spring opened up. The waters had healing properties and were particularly well known for healing gout.

"In those days pain was represented by a devil or an imp so it was thought that Schorne could command the devil out of a boot. Some people got the wrong end of the stick and thought he could command a devil into a boot. That formed the origin of a Jack in the Box," said David. Schorne died around 1314, when the shrine in his memory was established. "The income for North Marston went from £6 per year to £500," said David. "The Dean and Chapter at St George's, Windsor saw North Marston's success and made an application to the Pope to get Schorne's bones transferred. Sadly for Windsor the shrine was relocated as the cult was coming to the end of its popularity.

"There's a connection with healing and early on in the planning process we thought this festival could make quite a lot of money," said David. "We will be raising funds for the Willen and Florence Nightingale Hospices." Events throughout the festival will include a medieval banquet, an Evensong sung by the boy choristers of St George's, and many more. See www.schorneteam.co.uk for more details.



Bishop Alan is pictured above at the John Schorne Well. Photo by Heidi Meakin.

From Blockbuster to coffee house



A work in progress: The former video store undergoes renovations to become a coffee shop.

THE smell of fresh paint and fresh coffee will combine as a new church-run café to rival Starbucks and Costa opens on the Broughton estate in Aylesbury.

The church, which meets in the estate's junior school, celebrated its birthday over Easter. More than two years ago a survey revealed that people on the estate felt they needed two things: somewhere to meet and something for young people. "We have done a youth café for the last six years or so and have built a relationship with the landlord of the local shops that surround the entrance to the primary school," says the Vicar, the Revd Phil White.

So the church has taken over what used to be the Blockbuster video store and since March the shop, which currently has blacked out windows, is being transformed. As well

as a café, the building, entitled More+ aims to be more than a café, with possibilities including: debt relief advice, a credit union, a drop in for young people and for the elderly being among the projects planned. The project has cost £40,000 with £6,000 coming from the Diocesan Mission Fund. "We want to make it a better café than Starbucks or Costa. We are getting a professional coffee maker and we are training our volunteers to be baristas. We are working on transforming the unit at the moment to make it the best quality it can be and to offer it to the community."

Currently the building's windows are blacked out to retain an element of surprise when the finished coffee shop opens its doors later this month. An official opening is being planned for September.

Family fun in Cowley



A FAMILY fun day has helped show the people of Cowley in Oxford genuine hospitality and friendship.

The aim was to develop a warm and caring church equipped to welcome new people and demonstrate that the church is relevant in the community and a place where people come to celebrate life. At a parish vision day the church looked at new and fresh ways of engaging the community. The church has connected with the community through the two CofE schools of St Christopher's and St James's, and is hoping to hold more events similar to the fun day in September last year.

There the St James Church Centre was set and ready to go by 9.30am, as was the bouncy castle. It was set up outside the centre as an advertisement for anyone walking down the street. A total of 250 people visited. Vicar, the Revd Howard Thornton, said: "If they were asked why we were holding a fun

day people were to say we were doing it to help people in Cowley have fun. People did seem to have fun; many stayed for an hour and a half and many said they couldn't wait for the next one. Those who helped run the fun day had a good time and thought we had met our objectives of increasing our visibility, improving our public image and learning how to attract people to a church-run event.

"A few were disappointed that we didn't see any new people in church as a direct result of the day. However we had achieved another important objective - to get more church members into the right mindset to reach out into the community and begin to develop relationships with others. Team members agreed that the most important thing to improve for future fun days would be that there should be a programme of attractive events that we could offer to visitors."

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The Spiritual Love of Learning

Thought we would share a quote regarding the spiritual love of learning of St Alcuin, who became the educator of Emperor Charlemagne's own family - truly a world changer and influencer of his time:

Alcuin, who had previously been schoolmaster and librarian at York Minster in the 8th Century said of his own teacher and predecessor, Ethelbert, "He watered thirsty minds with different streams of doctrine and various dews of learning, given to these the arts of grammatical method, and pouring on those the rivers of rhetorical language. Some he took care to polish on the

whetstone of the law, others he taught to sing together in Aeonian chant, instructing others to play on the pipes of Castaly, and run with lyrical feet over the hills of Parnassus."

A love of books and singing seems to be at the forefront of the early British church and helped in the establishment of church schools to teach both.

Alcuin's obvious joy in learning developed him as the best kind of teacher to have - the one who has been taught well. Its great to find organisations still committed to these lofty ideals of education.



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Elia Brown

Christ Church Cathedral Welcomer

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SHARINGthe JOURNEY

The Diocese of Oxford invites you to a day of thanksgiving to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the ordination of women as priests

Service of Thanksgiving
Saturday 7 June 2014

Oxford's Cathedral at Christ Church, 11am
Preacher: The Revd Rose Hudson-Wilkin
President: The Venerable Karen Gorham,
Archdeacon of Buckingham
Panel Discussion
St Mary the Virgin, Oxford, 2pm to 3pm



RSVP by 1 May
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Plans for the vacancy

by Colin Fletcher



Ever since Bishop John announced that he will be retiring at the end of October I've had a steady stream of messages from people assuring me of their support and prayers as I take charge of the Diocese for the period of the vacancy, however long that may be.

Of course it's a job I've done before – in the months before John was appointed – and there is a temptation to think that it's simply a matter of repeating what happened last time. But, as those of you who've been involved in similar situations will know, just aiming for repetition doesn't work – or at least it doesn't work well. The plain fact is that the Diocese is in a very different place from where it was seven years ago.

In 2007 we didn't know much about what recession might mean for the Church. Sharing Life had reached a fairly natural end to its life and, of course, Living Faith had not arrived on the scene. Nationally, as well as in this Diocese, Street Pastors and Messy Church were both at a fairly early stage of their development and Food Banks were largely unheard of. (Who says that the Church is irrelevant or lacking in creativity in the face of that kind of evidence.) The prospect of ordaining our first women bishops was still a long way off and, at that stage, we only had one female Archdeacon in the Diocese.

I could add to that list several times over but the plain fact is that times have changed.

"...by then I hope it will be open to women and men alike..."

The evidence from the recent clergy conference was clear that they, at any rate, want to see the momentum created by Living Faith further developed. As it happens that fits in very well with what you plan to do during a vacancy – evolution and development are very much a part of it, but it's not a time for radical moves or new initiatives.

Of course there is a process to begin as we seek to discern, with the Archbishops and the permanent members of the Crown Nominations Committee, who should be our next Bishop. And, yes, by then I hope that it will be open to women and men alike (and remember that Bishop Richard had no episcopal experience before he came to the Diocese) – the key thing is that we find the right person for the job.

"...let's enjoy the time John and Wendy have with us until the end of October..."

But all that lies in the future. The process is in hand and it will work, though with quite a number of dioceses looking for bishops at the moment, it will, I guess, take the best part of a year.

However, for the present, let's enjoy the time John and Wendy have with us until the end of October. There's a great LLM Conference coming up. Living Faith will continue to develop. The Grand Day Out on 20 September will give us a wonderful opportunity to celebrate together and to say some of our farewells. And Bishop John will be leading the Thames Path Pilgrimage in September.

And, yes, I'd greatly appreciate your prayers for all the extra things I'll be doing after 1 November.

The Rt Revd Colin Fletcher is the Bishop of Dorchester.

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Letters to the editor are very welcome and should be sent either by email to jo.duckles@oxford.anglican.org or by post to Letters at the Door, Diocesan Church House, North Hinksey, Oxford. OX2 0NB. The Editor reserves the right to edit all submissions. Letters sent electronically will be more likely to be published.

Her Royal Highness

Reading your short piece (page two of your May issue) on the appointment of the Revd Canon John Rees to be one of the Queen's Chaplains, I was struck by the strange way

you described Her Majesty.

Surely it cannot have gone unnoticed by whoever wrote the piece, or by your editorial assistants, that the Queen has not been her Royal Highness since 5 February 1952, the day before she succeeded to the throne on the death of her father? Such a solecism should have no place in a periodical such as yours,

Rear Admiral JAL Myres CB, Dorchester-on-Thames, Oxfordshire.

Getting ready for a sea of red

POPPY seeds are being sown to create a sea of striking red flowers to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the start of the First World War. Here are a selection of photographs from Oxfordshire, Berkshire and Buckinghamshire.



Children from North Hinksey School in Oxford pop next door to Diocesan Church House to join staff in poppy planting in our garden. Photo: Jo Duckles



The Reverend Paul Bradish, Rector of Dunsden, Philip Chaimbault, Churchwarden and Linda Glithro, Treasurer of the Dunsden Owen Association plant poppies on the grave of the parents of War poet Wilfred Owen. Owen was a lay assistant at the Church from 1911 to 1913.



Left are toddlers from St John the Baptist Bodicote and below, The Revd David Tyler with children from Hanborough Manor CE School. Above top are children from St George's CE Infant School in Amersham, with the Rt Hon Cheryl Gillan, MP for Chesham, planting seeds. Above, teenagers from Ranelagh CE Secondary School in Bracknell. The containers are to be sunk into the ground so that the poppies grow in a bed that will form the shape of a cross. More online at www.oxford.anglican.org/poppies

Deadline for the July/August issue: Friday 6 June 2014.
Published: Monday 23 June 2014.

The Door is published by Oxford Diocesan Board of Finance (Diocesan Secretary Mrs Rosemary Pearce). The registered office is Diocesan Church House, North Hinksey Lane, Oxford, OX2 0NB. Tel: 01865 208200. While every care is taken to ensure the reliability of our advertisements, their inclusion in The Door does not guarantee it or mean that they are endorsed by the Diocese of Oxford.



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16 God in the life of...

THE Mothers' Union is an organisation with a strong prayer and campaigning base that works around the world empowering families and communities. Gillian Johnson tells Jo Duckles her journey from joining as a young mum to becoming president of the MU Oxford Diocese.

Gillian, a lifelong member of the Guiding movement and a grandmother-of-four, invited me to her home in Tilehurst, Reading, where she lives with her husband, Jim, to tell me how she held numerous roles for the Mothers' Union over more than 40 years. We meet as the MU in the Oxford Diocese prepares for its role in the Wave of Prayer – a global prayer chain that sees thousands of people praying for the needs of communities all over the world.

Born in Hillingdon, Gillian's family moved to Southampton when she was tiny and she grew up there, worshipping at Highfield Church. It was there that Guiding became an important part of her life. "I was involved in the Christian side of Guiding as well as being very much part of the church," says Gillian, who recently went back to Highfield Church with Jim. Life moves on and while they didn't know anyone, they enjoyed the trip down memory lane.

Gillian met Jim when they were teenagers and they married when she was 21, after he graduated from university. Jim's work saw them move to Glasgow and then to Tottenham, before eventually settling in Tilehurst. "We went to the local Anglican church in Tottenham but it was very 'high' and a real contrast to what we'd experienced before, so we joined the United Reformed Church," says Gillian, who recently met a bunch of Afro Caribbean Mothers' Union members from Tottenham at a service in St Paul's Cathedral.



Gillian smiles with her husband Jim. Photo: Jo Duckles.

"I told them I used to live there and they were delighted to meet me," she said.

Gillian was a civil servant doing clerical work in the Department of Health and Social Security and later an administration officer for the Women's Royal Voluntary Service. "That involved a lot of travelling around Oxfordshire, Berkshire and Buckinghamshire. At the time my children were at school. I felt I couldn't keep that up so worked for Relate for four years before spending 15 years in a GP surgery. The surgery was in our parish. I built up strong relationships with patients who needed help."

The Johnson family settled in Tilehurst in the 1970s. "We had a tiny baby by then and felt it would be good to get her baptised in the place where we were going to put down roots," says Gillian. So Helen, their elder daughter, was baptised at St

George's, Tilehurst. "I joined the MU branch there. There were a few young mums like me and we were encouraged by these 'aunties', older members who were like aunties to our children."

Gillian found herself on the branch committee until her two girls were at secondary school, when she became secretary, treasurer and eventually branch leader. "Having been a Guide and later a Guider, I thought if I could run a Guide company I could run an MU branch," said Gillian, a Trefoil Guild member who was a District Commissioner for the Guides until a few years ago.

"The leadership skills you learn in Guiding definitely fashion you through life. I went through my own MU branch holding levels of responsibility and later became the Reading Deanery leader." Reading is the largest deanery in the

country in terms of the MU. Gillian was also area leader for East Berkshire, organising special activities including Lady Day and summer meetings. She has also been involved in MU Enterprises, selling products including books, toys, greeting cards, household items and fashion items.

And what does Gillian enjoy most about her Mothers' Union involvement? "I think if I am honest it is about meeting the people in their situations and seeing the work that they are doing as members. All of these people are working so hard in the name of the Mothers' Union. The smaller branches with more elderly members are the prayer base. That is very humbling.

"The smaller branches with more elderly members are the prayer base."

"The power base of prayer in England is excellent as well as the financial backing we give, although that is reducing as communities in poorer countries become empowered to work out their own solutions to poverty."

As well as the international work, the MU does a whole host of work in the UK, including in the Oxford Diocese. Parenting courses, campaigns against domestic violence and the sexualisation of children and projects to give help, support and even days out to poorer families, are among the projects undertaken across Oxfordshire, Berkshire and Buckinghamshire. One of the most recent is a plan to provide treat days for some of those affected by the recent flooding, to give them some respite as their homes and businesses are repaired.

Gillian and Jim have two daughters, aged 42 and 40 and four grandchildren aged fourteen, seven, four and three, who all attended the ceremony where she was officially made President, at Oxford's Cathedral at Christ Church. For more see <http://www.muoxford.org.uk>

Commit your work to the Lord, and your plans will be established.

Proverbs 16 vs 3 (NRSV)

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Who is like you, O Lord, among the gods? Who is like you, majestic in holiness, awesome in glorious deeds, doing wonders?

Ex 15:11

Pull this section out. Keep it handy for your own prayers and involvement in the Diocese.

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He gives to his beloved sleep

by *Olivia Graham*

Nathaniel lies naked and sun baked under the not very adequate shade of a tree. Exposed to the sun. Exposed to the strength and warmth of God's gaze. God knows him. He really KNOWS him. Nothing is hidden. Nothing can be hidden. There is no pretence.

And Nathaniel is asleep. *He gives to his beloved sleep.* In this state of unconscious renewal and revitalisation, Nathaniel is laid out under God's loving gaze.

In the shower, clothed in only my skin, I feel the water warmly flowing over me, relaxing my tired neck and shoulders. Naked before God. Here there is no dissembling, no pretence. Sometimes I sing or shout. The room has a satisfying resonance and my voice sounds almost lovely. I know that I can't stay there for ever... the hot water will run out. The day beckons, there are things to do. But for those few lovely minutes, it is just me and God, and his love washes over me and warms and caresses me. I give myself up to the present moment, not thinking about the day to come.

"Here there is no dissembling, no pretence."

We are called to be countercultural. The culture of our day values activity, productivity, profit, result. It does not value going to sleep under a tree. Sometimes it feels as though the culture of our churches rewards frantic activity, saying yes to yet another commitment, stressing the *action* in the Mission Action Plan over the *mission* or the *plan*. Sometimes our churches can feel like an extension of the labour of our working week, rather than the place we come in order to rest and be renewed and revitalised; the place we come in order to be naked before God, and honest about how it is.

"...only by loving myself can I love and serve others."

I spent a lovely day in the convent - a quiet day. I thought it would be a good day to catch up on sermon writing. But God was gracious to me, as God always is, and saved me from my achieving self, from the self that never wants to waste a minute. The bed in my room beckoned and allured me. I slept. Almost the whole day.



Nathaniel Asleep Under the Fig Tree by Mark Cazalet. **Reproduced with permission of the Methodist Modern Art Collection.**

He gives to his beloved sleep. This was a holiday. A holy day. A day full of grace and truth. The grace of God's love for the humanness of the flesh. The truth that only by loving myself can I love and serve others.

As Nathaniel wakes and stretches and wonders what time it is (noticing the length of the shadows), God smiles. And God smiled on me as I drove home from the convent with the unexpected feeling that I had not wasted the day but allowed God to create a small portal through which Heaven could shine.

The Ven. Olivia Graham is Archdeacon of Berkshire.

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June prayer diary

The following is for guidance only, please feel free to adapt to local conditions

Our purpose is to create a caring, sustainable and growing Christian presence in every part of the Diocese of Oxford.

'As for everyone who comes to me and hears my words and puts them into practice, I will show you what they are like. They are like a man building a house on rock.' Luke 6:47-48

Pray to the Father through the Son in the power of the Spirit for:

MONDAY 2 Mursley Deanery. Laurence Meering, Bobbie Ward, Jeremy Hopkinson and Siv Tunncliffe. For the handover of Area Dean from Laurence Meering to Philip Derbyshire.

TUESDAY 3 Cottesloe. Philip Derbyshire and Gill Rowell. Give thanks to God for the appointment of Helen Barnes as Team Vicar of Wing and Wingrave from 8 July and for all our Wardens and PCCs in all the hard work they undertake for the growth of the Kingdom. St Michael's Stewkley (VA) and Wingrave (VC) Schools.

WEDNESDAY 4 Ivinghoe with Pitstone and Slapton and Marsworth. Barbara Butts and Sandra Green. Pray as they seek the Lord for their next incumbent. Marsworth (VA) School.

THURSDAY 5 Newton Longville, Mursley, Swanbourne, Little Horwood, and Drayton Parslow. Laurence Meering, John Saunders, Jackie Brown, Judith Saunders and Helen Walker. Newton Longville (VA), Mursley (VC) and Swanbourne (VA) Schools.

FRIDAY 6 The Brickhills and Stoke Hammond. John Waller and Jeremy Hopkinson. For Family Services across our four parishes and the work to develop the facilities in our church buildings. Bow Brickhill (VA) and High Ash (VC) School.

SATURDAY 7 Oxford Deanery. Mark Butchers, Anne Lee, Michael Daniell, Alan McCullough, Bruce Armour. Oxford Deaf Church. Ben Whitaker and Roger Williams. For the deanery as our new Mission Enabler Paula Clifford works with Churches and PCCs to develop our mission strategies. For the Sharing the Journey celebration service celebrating 20 years of women as priests taking place at Christ Church Cathedral.

MONDAY 9 Kidlington with Hampton Poyle. Felicity Scroggie, Jen Brown, William Whyte and Lesley Heffer.

Our Bishops on Sundays

SUNDAY 1 Please pray for the ministry of our Bishops – John, Colin, Alan and Andrew and for the ministry of our Archdeacons Martin Gorick, Karen Gorham, Olivia Graham, Hedley Ringrose (Acting Archdeacon of Dorchester) and Judy French (Archdeacon Designate).

SUNDAY 8 Pentecost Bishop Colin confirming at St Mary's, North Leigh, and in the Banbury Group; Bishop Alan confirming in the Burnham and Slough Deanery and Newport Deanery and Bishop David Jennings confirming at St Edward's School. On this great Feast of Pentecost when we celebrate the outpouring of the Holy Spirit please pray for an outpouring across the Diocese equipping people to proclaim the Gospel with their whole lives, in words and in deeds.

SUNDAY 15 Trinity Bishop Alan confirming in the Amersham



Give thanks for the onward mission resulting from a wonderful ecumenical Holy Week prayer vigil when St Mary's was open 12 hours a day for prayer and local Christians and passers-by kept continuous prayer. Pray that the result of our ecumenical Pentecost Big Lunch, with Christians working and praying together, will continue that powerful witness to Christian hospitality. Pray for our team as we begin work on our first mission action plan that we may move forward in confidence and faith. DAC meets today please pray for their deliberations.

TUESDAY 10 Osney. Clare Sykes, Judith Brown and Martin Henig. For our newly established benefice wide group for young people. For the wider community of Botley and district who are living in the shadow of a proposed redevelopment of our local centre. North Hinksey (VC) School.

WEDNESDAY 11 The Feast of St Barnabas. St Aldate's Oxford. Charlie Cleverly, Mark Brickman, Christian Hofreiter, Simon Ponsonby, Phil Atkinson, Oli Benyon, Anita Cleverly, Michelle Tepper, Peter Tepper, Andrew Gilmour and Rachel Smith. For couples on the Marriage Course throughout June and July, that this would be a fruitful time for them and as we plan our Summer Children's club, pray that we see many non-church families and children signing up to this. For the women's conference to reach women across Oxford and that it will be a real time of equipping and seeking God to live intentionally. For University Students doing Finals and Student Ministry that people 'finish well'. Bishop Alan confirming at St Paul's Woking.

THURSDAY 12 St Andrew Oxford. Andrew Wingfield-Digby, Peter Scamman, Jonathan Vaughan, Paul White, David Bendor-Samuel, Donald Hay, David Wright and Sas Cutting. Please pray that our building project will be successfully completed and for our work amongst families, children and youth which is

central to all we do. Frideswide (VA) School.

FRIDAY 13 St Barnabas and St Paul. Oxford. Jonathan Beswick, Mark Stafford, John Hanks, Jenny Pittaway, Dennis Mason, Maggie Ellis and Susan Gillingham. St Barnabas (VA) School.

SATURDAY 14 St Ebbe with Holy Trinity and St Peter le Bailey. Vaughan Roberts, Suresh Menon, Peter Wilkinson, Al Gibbs, David Reid, and Al Horn. For wisdom as we think about how to facilitate further growth now that our building is full and for fruitfulness in our evangelism and discipleship of students this term before they leave for the summer.

MONDAY 16 St Giles and St Philip and St James with St Margaret Oxford. Andrew Bunch, Sally Welch, Georgie Simpson, Nicholas Bradbury, Bernard Silverman and David Longrigg. For Sally Welch and her family whilst she is on sabbatical and preparations for the Diocesan Thames Path Pilgrimage which she is working on. For our discussions about developing our ministry to the elderly and lonely and our children's ministry at St Margaret's. SS Philip and James (VA) School.

TUESDAY 17 St Mary Magdalen Oxford. Peter Groves and Richard Frith. For Jonathan Jong, our curate to be, who is being deaconed at Petertide and our ministry to visitors and tourists.

WEDNESDAY 18 St Mary the Virgin with St Cross with St Peter in the East (The University Church). Brian Mountford and Alan Ramsey. For the ministry of St Mary's to the central University of Oxford and the development of ministry through music and drama.

THURSDAY 19 Corpus Christi. St Matthew Oxford. Steve Hellyer, Tim Bradshaw, Mike Rayner, Jane Sherwood, Jane Usher and Yvonne Morris. Give

Deanery. Bishop Colin confirming at Bodicote; Bishop John confirming at Headington and Bishop Alan confirming at Wendover. On this day when we celebrate the mystery of the Holy Trinity please pray for the Church that we may live in the harmony, unity and community of the Holy Trinity.

SUNDAY 22 Priests' Ordinations. Please pray for all those being ordained Priest in the Diocese today. Please pray for all who are called and serve in the priestly ministry that they will be daily invigorated by the Holy Spirit and be inspirational leaders. Please pray for those exploring such a vocation.

SUNDAY 29 The Feast of Saints Peter and Paul. LLM Conference – Imagining Faith Please continue to pray for the LLMs across the diocese as they return to their homes and parishes after their conference. May the Holy Spirit grant them new imagination in their faith and new inspiration in proclaiming the Gospel.

ions and, if you wish, produce your own deanery prayer diaries.

thanks for the recently rebuilt St Luke's Church and pray for its wise use in continuing appropriate caring ministry to the people of the surrounding area with their many needs and challenges and at St Matthew's pray for our Church Council as we seek to be drawn together around a common vision, particularly concerned with how best to be more effective in evangelistic outreach to the multi-faceted Grandpont community. St Ebbe's (VA) School. Bishop David Jennings confirming at Christ Church School. For Judy French as she is installed as Archdeacon of Dorchester at Christ Church today.

FRIDAY 20 St Michael and St Martin and All Saints. Bob Wilkes and Jo Moffett-Levy. For our daily ministry of hospitality to visitors to Oxford (the city receives 9.5 million a year), and for our special summer Choral Evensongs with Bach Cantatas offered to those who pass by on Cornmarket also for our developing relationships with Oxford City Council, and for the Vicar's support as City Rector to the new Lord Mayor, Deputy Lord Mayor and High Sheriff.

SATURDAY 21 St Thomas the Martyr. Jonathan Beswick and John Hanks. Please pray for the process by which the future of church and parish will be decided.

MONDAY 23 South with New Hinksey. James Wilkinson and Balwant Singh. Please give thanks for the gift of joy in the Resurrection and for the inspiration of the Holy Spirit in dealing with our financial issues. New Hinksey (VC) School. For those being ordained priest today and for Diocesan Synod. For the Department of Mission Meeting.

TUESDAY 24 The Feast of John the Baptist. Summertown. Gavin Knight, Samantha Stayte, Charlotte Bannister-Parker, Mary Gurr, Rodney Hill, Katie Jones. Please pray for Samantha to be ordained priest this Pentecost. For the widening of the church's vision and deepening of its life of faith in Summertown, Cutteslowe and the Waterways as we work to make our church building a place of welcome and hospitality for the local community.

WEDNESDAY 25 Wolvercote and Wytham. Mark Butchers, Jo Coney, Viv Bridges and Rob Gilbert. Give thanks for the progress on the development projects in both churches and also for renewed

We recall with sadness the death of Martin Mays-Smith who was a member of numerous committees and councils within the Diocese of Oxford for many years.

There will be a memorial service at Christ Church Cathedral on 30 June, 11:00am.

Services at Christ Church Cathedral

SUNDAYS: 8am Holy Communion; 10am Matins (coffee in Priory Room); 11.15am Sung Eucharist; 6pm Evensong.

WEEKDAYS: 7.15am Morning Prayer; 7.35am Holy Communion; 1pm (Wednesday only) Holy Communion; 6pm Evensong (Thursday Sung Eucharist 6pm).

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Photo of the LLM Licensing service November 2013 with the Bishop of Dorchester and The Revd Dr Phillip Tovey (Deputy Warden of LLM Ministry). Please pray for all LLMs in the Diocese as they attend the LLM Conference from 27 to 29 June. Photo by Anne Taylor.

vision for future mission and ministry in the benefice.

THURSDAY 26 Glebe and Buildings Department. David Mason and the team. For the hidden ministry of the Glebe and Buildings Department as they seek to manage our historic investments well and maintain our vicarages and rectories to support the mission of the whole Church across the Diocese.

FRIDAY 27 Licenced Lay Ministers Conference. The second Diocesan Conference in the Imagining Faith Series starts today. It is particularly focused on LLM ministry and equipping LLMs for their mission and ministry.

SATURDAY 28 Licenced Lay Ministers Conference. For Phillip Tovey as he serves the LLM network and for more vocations to this area of ministry and mission across

Coming and Goings

The Revd Joy Hance will take up post as Associate Priest at Witney Team Ministry; **The Revd Norma Fergusson** will take up post as Curate in training at Shrivenham and Ashbury; **The Revd Carolyn Bailey** will take up post as Associate Priest at Great Missenden with Ballinger and Little Hampden; **The Revd Susan Webster** will take up post as Associate Minister at Walbury Beacon; **The Revd Neil Traynor** will take up post as Team Vicar of Witney Team Ministry; **The Revd Pippa Soundy** will take up post as Associate Priest in the Wendover Deanery; **The Revd Dr Paula Clifford** will take up post as Vicar Designate at St Kenelm, Minster Lovell; **The Revd Miri Keen** is leaving her post as Priest at North Leigh, Cogges and South Leigh; **The**

the diocese that the ministry of lay people may flourish.

MONDAY 30 Living Faith. For the ongoing development of Living Faith resources and preparations for the Thames Path Pilgrimage and the Grand Day Out in September.

Competition winners

The winners of last month's competition are: Sam Partington from Kennington, Oxford; Marguerite Hickman from Bradmore, Wolverhampton and Mrs Herbert from Newbury.

They have all won a copy of *Edible Bible Crafts* by Sally Welch.

Revd Laurence Meering will retire from his post as Area Dean of Mursley and Rector of Newton Longville, Mursley, Swanbourne, Little Horwood and Drayton Parslow; **The Revd Dr Anthony Peabody** has retired as Associate Priest of Sulhamstead Abbots and Bannister with Ufton Nervet and of Burghfield and moved to Permission to Officiate.

The following have been given Permission to Officiate: **The Revd Peter Crooks; The Revd Liz Boughton.**

We recall with sadness the deaths of: **The Revd Ralph Mann; The Revd Adrian Fisher; The Revd Canon Alan Pyburn; The Revd Frederick Evans; The Revd Anthony Goode.**



St. Giles' Church, Oxford

10 Woodstock Rd, Oxford OX2 6HT

Merton and the search for truth



here is the thing that God has willed for me (Thomas Merton)

An exhibition of paintings by

Robert Wright

1st - 27th June 2014

The Church is open between 12.00 and 2.00

Monday to Friday

Hospital of St Cross & Almshouse of Noble Poverty "England's Oldest Almshouse" Vacancies for Brothers

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Further information and an application form are obtainable from: Clerk to the Trustees Hospital of St Cross Winchester, SO23 9SD Tel: 01962 878218 E-mail: clerk@hospitalofstcross.co.uk www.hospitalofstcross.co.uk Registered Charity No.202751



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Adoption information evenings

Wednesday 4th June

Wednesday 2nd July

Starting at 6.30pm ending at 8.00pm

A warm welcome awaits you!

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thedoorpost

Courses, training, conferences and workshops in June

The Doorpost is a free service for churches to advertise their events and is designed to be hung on church noticeboards. Please send your events to doorpost@oxford.anglican.org or by post to Church House. The deadline for the next issue is **Friday 6 June**.

THURSDAY 3 JUNE

Oxford: PACT (Parents and Children Together) are holding an open evening from 7pm - 8.30pm at CMS, Watlington Road, OX4 6BZ. Phone 0300 456 4800 or email info@pactcharity.org for details.

WEDNESDAY 4 JUNE

Oxford: A Quiet Day reflecting on the works of Thomas Merton led by Canon Robert Wright at St Giles' Church from 10am - 4pm. Email vicar@churchwalk.eclipse.co.uk or georgie.simpson1@gmail.com or phone 07803 031977 for details.

Aldworth: Afternoon teas will be served every Wednesday from today until 27 August at St Mary's Church RG8 9SB from 2.30pm to 4.30pm. This village church is home to the 14th Century effigies known as The Aldworth Giants. Details 01635 578936.

THURSDAY 5 JUNE

Oxford: The Retired Clergy Association meeting and bring and share lunch. Meet in the Priory Room at Christ Church Cathedral at 10.15am. Talk by Bishop David Jennings 'A conversation about Retirement'. Lunch at 12 noon. Phone 01865 761476 for details.

Reading: The Bishop of Reading, Rt Revd Andrew Proud, will be speaking at Reading at Work on the subject 'How the Church can support those in the workplace' at Bill's Restaurant RG1 2HX at 7.45pm. Details at www.readingatwork.org

Oxford: Lunchtime talk exploring the wisdom of the mystics at St Giles' Church at 12.30pm. 'Etty Hillesum: The Cost of Compassion' by Liz Watson. Details at www.ocsg.uk.net

SATURDAY 7 JUNE

Penn: Holy Trinity Plant sale and other stalls at Watercroft, Church Road, Penn from 2pm - 4pm.

Olney: Open Gardens for National Garden Society at the Cowper and Newton Museum MK46 4AJ from 10.30am to 4.30pm. Teas, plant stall and lacemaking demonstrations. Phone 01234 711516 for details.



Photo: One of Letcombe Regis gardens. Gardens open on 29 June.

Chinnor: St Andrew's Church are holding a flower festival in remembrance of the First World War today and tomorrow from 2pm to 5pm. Free entrance. Cream teas available.

WEDNESDAY 11 JUNE

Beaconsfield: Lecture by Professor Mona Siddiqui on 'Christians, Muslims and Jesus' will take place at 8pm at St Mary and All Saints Church HP10 0LH. Cost £10. Email office@stmariesbeaconsfield.org.uk or phone 01494 676690 or details.

THURSDAY 12 JUNE

Oxford: Lunchtime talk exploring the wisdom of the mystics at St Giles' Church at 12.30pm. 'Thomas Merton and the Search for Truth' by Canon Robert Wright. Details at www.ocsg.uk.net

SATURDAY 14 JUNE

High Wycombe: The Mothers' Union summer meeting will take place at St Andrew's, HP13 7NJ from 10am to 3pm featuring 'Inspired' Mary Sumner House speakers. Email carol@carololder.co.uk or phone 01280 820812 for details.

Theale: A day of singing workshops and singalongs for all ages run by professional musicians, followed by evening concert at Holy Trinity Church RG7 5BZ. Workshops 10am - 5pm; concert 7.30pm to 9.30pm. Phone 07824 337999 or email katedelnevo@hotmail.com

THURSDAY 19 JUNE

Oxford: Lunchtime talk exploring the wisdom of the mystics at St Giles' Church at 12.30pm. 'Journey

through the Dark Night of the Soul: the wisdom of John of the Cross' by Colin Thompson. Details at www.ocsg.uk.net

Tilehurst: St Mary Magdalen Hall. Reading Concert Singers 'Fun with Gilbert & Sullivan'. Cost £8 (£4 under 16). Details 0118 942 5290.

FRIDAY 20 JUNE

Lewknor: Flower Festival with a theme of Nursery Rhymes and Fairy Stories will take place at St Margaret's Church OX49 5TP from today until 22 June. Phone 01844 351715 for details.

Whitley: St Agnes Hall. Reading Concert Singers 'Fun with Gilbert & Sullivan'. £8 (£4 under 16). Details 0118 942 5290.

SATURDAY 21 JUNE

Winslow: Wedding weekend at St Laurence's Church, High Street MK18 3AB. Wedding fair open 10.30am to 4.30pm today and tomorrow. Email tbecapstick@yahoo.com for details.

WEDNESDAY 25 JUNE

Turville: Hambleden Valley, near Henley. Healing service with laying on of hands and anointing at Holy Communion at 10.15am. Details 01491 571231.

SUNDAY 29 JUNE

Letcombe Regis: Gardens open 2pm - 6pm in aid of St Andrew's Church 'Raise the Roof' appeal. £5 programme gives entry to 11 gardens. Teas available, plant stall and quiz for children. See www.opengardens.co.uk or email meryl@dunstan.co.uk for details.

Courses and Special Events

SHARING THE JOURNEY: Saturday 7 June - A day of thanksgiving to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the ordination of women as priests. Service of Thanksgiving at Christ Church Cathedral at 11am and Panel Discussion from 2pm - 3pm at St Mary the Virgin, Oxford. Book by emailing tinadstirling@aol.com or phone 01296 747587.

UPPER ROOM WRITERS DAY: Monday 16 June - A creative writing day to learn how to craft and create Bible reading notes led by Susan Hibbins, editor of *The Upper Room* UK edition. Venue: Ripon College, Cuddesdon. Cost £25. Closing date for bookings is 29 May. Email claire.proudman@brf.org.uk or phone 01235 858245 for more details and to book your place.

UNDERSTANDING ISLAM: 16 - 19 June at St Stephen's House, Oxford. This course is for those who want to learn more about Islam and reflect on Islam as Christians. No prior knowledge of Islam will be assumed. Email susan.keeling@ssho.ox.ac.uk or phone 01865 613500 for details.

LEARNING, TRAINING, MINISTERIAL DEVELOPMENT: Thursday 26 June - Preaching from St John's Gospel. This day, led by Darrel Hannah, will take place at Diocesan Church House, Oxford from 10am to 3.30pm. Email sheila.townsend@oxford.anglican.org or phone 01865 208277 for details and booking form.